

December 1, 2017

Staff and Local School Council  
Edward Jenner Elementary Academy of the Arts  
1119 North Cleveland Avenue

Staff and Local School Council  
Ogden International School of Chicago  
24 West Walton Street

Re: Proposed Consolidation of Edward Jenner Elementary Academy of the Arts into Ogden International School of Chicago

Dear Staff and Local School Council Members:

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is committed to providing every child from every community with a high quality education that prepares them for success in college and in life. CPS students continue to make record-breaking academic progress in every part of the city. Our vision is that all CPS schools can build on this progress by offering high quality, rigorous instruction from talented educators that help put Chicago students on a path to lasting success.

Two years ago, the Local School Councils at Edward Jenner Elementary Academy of the Arts (Jenner) and Ogden International School of Chicago (Ogden) requested that a consolidation of Jenner and Ogden be considered. At that time, CPS declined to propose the consolidation of Jenner and Ogden, and instead sought additional community engagement to address Jenner and Ogden's unique academic and utilization concerns. A Jenner/Ogden Community Steering Committee (JOCSC) was formed, comprised of parents and community members representing Jenner and Ogden and they have led a community-driven approach to merge the two schools. JOCSC hired NextLevel NPO, LLC (NextLevel) to prepare a report evaluating options to address Ogden's overcrowding and Jenner's underutilization. NextLevel's report supports the proposal to merge Jenner and Ogden, providing Jenner students with an access to an International Baccalaureate Programme, addressing both schools' enrollment concerns and creating an integrated, diverse school.

For these reasons, today CPS is proposing the consolidation of Jenner into Ogden. This proposal also includes the merging of the schools' attendance-area boundaries into one attendance area boundary. If this proposal is approved by the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (Board), Jenner and Ogden will be consolidated for the start of the 2018-19 school year. Current students' enrollment status at either school will not be affected by this action and all current students at both schools will be allowed to attend the consolidated school.

This proposal is consistent with the Chief Executive Officer's Guidelines for School Actions (Guidelines) for consolidations because it is a proposal formally requested by community members via the JOCSC and the resulting space utilization data after the consolidation will not exceed the facilities' enrollment efficiency range, as defined by the CPS' Space Utilization Standards. Finally, the



students impacted by this proposed consolidation are being provided the option to enroll at Ogden, a higher performing school, as defined by the Guidelines.

Over the coming months, CPS will work with your labor union to minimize the impact of this proposed consolidation on both school staffs. It is our goal to maintain stability throughout the transition, and we will communicate additional details to you as these plans are further developed. In the meantime, if you have any questions about what this proposal means for you, please contact the Talent Office at [workforceplanning@cps.edu](mailto:workforceplanning@cps.edu).

If you would like more details about the proposal, please refer to the Draft Transition Plan that is included with this letter.

As a next step, CPS will hold two community meetings and one public hearing to hear further feedback on CPS' proposal (meeting information is below). Following the meetings and hearing, the Board of Education may vote on this proposal as early as February of 2018.

### **Public Comment on this Proposal**

I invite you to share your feedback on this proposal during the following two community meetings and one public hearing noted below:

#### **Community Meeting 1**

January 9, 2018

6 to 8 p.m.

Ogden International School of  
Chicago

24 West Walton Street

#### **Community Meeting 2**

January 16, 2018

6 to 8 p.m.

Edward Jenner Elementary  
Academy of the Arts

1119 North Cleveland Avenue

#### **Public Hearing**

January 25, 2018

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

CPS Central Office

42 West Madison Street

If you wish to comment at the community meetings or hearing, you must sign up to speak on the day of, at the designated location, beginning one hour before the designated start time and ending one hour after the start of the meeting or hearing. You will have two minutes to speak, unless the hearing officer or meeting organizer provides an extension. The hearing will conclude at the stated end time or following the comments of the last person who has signed up to speak, whichever occurs first.

Thank you in advance for your feedback as we work to provide all Chicago Public School students with the high quality education they deserve. After the community meetings and public hearing, I will review a written report from the hearing officer and at that time, I may recommend that the Board consider and approve the consolidation of Jenner and Ogden.

**Further Questions and Concerns:**

All of this information can be found at [CPS.edu/Transitions](http://CPS.edu/Transitions). If you have any questions or concerns regarding this proposal and the Draft Transition Plan, please call Chicago Public Schools at (773) 553-1500 or email [Transitions@cps.edu](mailto:Transitions@cps.edu).

Sincerely,



Forrest Claypool  
Chief Executive Officer  
Chicago Public Schools